

JOHANNES AND BERTHA BUHLER SONDEREGGER



Son of Hans Ulrich Sonderegger and Anna Elizabeth Forger. Born November 30, 1830, in Balgauh, St. Gallen, Switzerland. Married Anna Maria Lemp November 27, 1857, in Switzerland. Married Bertha Buhler in 1878, in the old Salt Lake Endowment House. Died November 1, 1893, in Midway.

Bertha Buhler, daughter of Solomon Buhler and Verena Hackler. Born August 15, 1856, at Ritheim, Argau, Switzerland. Married Johannes Sonderegger, 1878. Died July 22, 1924, buried in Midway.

Johannes Sonderegger, a Swiss immigrant, was an expert stone cutter, mason and carpenter who found his skills in demand in the early history of Provo Valley.

He worked as an artisan on the Salt Lake Temple for 12 years. He also worked on the Wasatch Stake House during the entire time of construction. Johannes also built the brick hotel at the old Schneitter's Hot Pots, which still stands, and is known as the Virginia House. When the former Midway 2nd Ward house was built, on April 4, 1881, Bishop David Van Wagoner dedicated the cornerstone that had been made ready for this purpose by the stonemason, Elder Johannes Sonderegger.

He married Anna Maria Lemp, on November 27, 1857. They were both baptized in 1870, in Switzerland and emigrated to the United States in 1872. Anna Maria died November 10, 1878, and was buried in Midway.

Johannes bought an acre of ground in Midway, and built a one-room house. They lived there for a number of years before Anna Maria died. She had a bad case of typhoid fever and was very sick for a long time before she died.

In 1878, he married Bertha Buhler in the

Old Salt Lake Endowment House. They moved into the one room house and that summer he built another room and put shingles on. It was the first house in Midway to be shingled.

Bertha Buhler joined the Church at the age of 19 years and was baptized and came to America. Her family disowned her because of it. But one other sister and her husband came a few years later. She received her schooling in Switzerland, and she spoke French and German very fluently.

Bertha was 22 years old when she married and Johannes was 48 years. She was left a widow at the early age of 37, with eight children to care for. She was a Relief Society teacher for many years.

Besides Johannes work on the Salt Lake Temple and Wasatch Tabernacle, he also built two large stores in Park City, and the foundations for several houses in Midway and Heber.

Nine children were born to Johannes and Bertha. They were:

Fredrick, who married Marian Lindsay Burt;

Bertha, who married William W. Wilson;

John, who married Pauline Gayheart. He is a great clarinet player in Boston, Mass., and played many important concerts. He also has a music shop where he repairs musical instruments.

Louise, married Robert Clegg;

Minnie, married James Taylor Witt (2); Joseph C. McDonald;

Ida, married Charles Anderson;

Emma, married Jesse Nelson;

George William, died in infancy.

Ernest Ervin married Grace Watkins. He filled a Church mission to Germany during World War I, and had to be transferred to the states to finish because of the war.